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**FEDERAL JURY CONVICTS PRESIDIO MAN FOR SMUGGLING A JUVENILE
INTO THE COUNTRY TO ENGAGE IN CRIMINAL SEXUAL ACTIVITY**

(PECOS, TEXAS) United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that a federal jury in Pecos convicted 29-year-old **JORGE CARRASCO SANCHEZ** of Presidio, Texas, for smuggling a minor female into the United States to engage in criminal sexual activity.

In all, the jury late yesterday afternoon convicted Sanchez of three charges: transport of a juvenile in foreign commerce to engage in criminal sexual activity, import of alien for immoral purpose and harboring an illegal alien. The jury found that on April 29, 2002, Sanchez transported a 16-year-old female Mexican National from Ojinaga, Chihuahua, Mexico to Presidio. Subsequently, she became the victim of aggravated sexual abuse at the hands of the defendant. The jury also found that Sanchez illegally harbored the girl for approximately one month during which time he repeatedly assaulted her and threatened to kill her. On May 20, 2002, the female managed to escape from Sanchez and sought help from authorities.

Noting that the defendant crossed an international boundary to carry out his immoral scheme, Sutton stated, "Whenever the conduct violates federal law, this office is committed to prosecuting the offenders regardless of the victim's nationality."

Sanchez faces up to 45 years in federal prison and a maximum \$750,000 fine. He remains in federal custody pending sentencing. No sentencing date has been set.

This case was investigated by the United States Border Patrol and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Charlie Jenkins prosecuted this case on behalf of the government.

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